

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 38-42 and 45-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 22, 24, 26-34, 36-37, and 43-44 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims are amended and no claims are newly added. Thus, no new matter is added.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 22, 24, 29-34, and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ress, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,190,133, hereinafter “Ress”) in view of Sagel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,773,817, hereinafter “Sagel”); and rejected Claims 26-28 and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ress in view of Sagel and further in view of Schilling (U.S. Patent No. 5,490,764) or Bedford (GB 2242848).

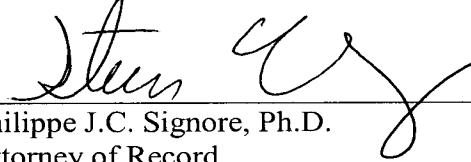
The Advisory Action dated January 14, 2010, indicated that Claims 38-42 and 45-47 were allowed. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 22, 24, 26-34, 36-37, and 43-44 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that only claims indicated as reciting allowable subject matter or depending from claims indicated as reciting allowable subject matter are pending.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philippe J.C. Signore", is written over a horizontal line.

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